

# Modern Standard Arabic

<https://pwsmith.github.io/multivaluation/dbcoord/>

October 6, 2020

## Cite as

Himmelreich, Anke, Katharina Hartmann, Melissa Jeckel, and Peter W. Smith (2020): Agreement Resolution in Coordination Structures in the World's Languages. Ms., Goethe Universität Frankfurt am Main (url: <https://pwsmith.github.io/multivaluation/dbcoord/>)

## Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Overview</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Patterns for gender</b>	<b>2</b>
2.1	Coordination with “and”	2
2.1.1	SV order	2
2.1.2	VS order	2
2.2	Coordination with “or”	3
2.2.1	SV order	3
2.2.2	VS order	3
<b>3</b>	<b>Patterns for number</b>	<b>3</b>
3.1	Coordination with “and”	3
3.1.1	SV order	3
3.1.2	VS order	4
3.2	Coordination with “or”	4
3.2.1	SV order	4
3.2.2	VS order	5
<b>4</b>	<b>Patterns for person</b>	<b>5</b>
4.1	Coordination with “and”	5
4.1.1	SV order	5
4.1.2	VS order	6
4.2	Coordination with “or”	6
4.2.1	SV order	6

# 1 Overview

<b>Language family:</b>	Afro-Asiatic (Semitic)
<b>Countries:</b>	Primarily in the Arab League, in the Middle East and North Africa; and in the Horn of Africa (used as literary Arabic);
<b>Number of speakers:</b>	313 million
<b>Agreement features:</b>	gender, number, person
<b>Attested word orders:</b>	SV, VS
<b>Coordination types:</b>	and, or

(The data were entered by a native speaker via an online survey.)

## 2 Patterns for gender

### 2.1 Coordination with “and”

#### 2.1.1 SV order

**Pattern:** Mismatches are resolved to masculine.

1st conjunct \ 2nd conjunct	fem	masc
fem	fem	masc
masc	masc	masc

**Examples:**

- (1) a. almarʔatu w-arrija:lu yarkud<sup>ʕ</sup>a:ni  
 woman.SG and-man.SG run.3DU.MASC  
 ‘The woman and the man run.’  
 b. arrajulu w-almarʔatu yarkud<sup>ʕ</sup>a:ni  
 man.SG and-woman.SG run.3DU.MASC  
 ‘The man and the woman run.’

#### 2.1.2 VS order

**Pattern:** There is closest conjunct agreement.

1st conjunct \ 2nd conjunct	fem	masc
fem	fem	fem
masc	masc	masc

**Examples:**

- (2) a. tarkud<sup>ʕ</sup>u almarʔatu w-arrajulu  
 run.3SG.FEM woman.SG and-man.SG  
 ‘The woman and the man run.’  
 b. yarkud<sup>ʕ</sup>u arrajulu w-almarʔatu.  
 run.3SG.MASC man.SG and-woman.SG  
 ‘The man and the woman run.’

## 2.2 Coordination with “or”

### 2.2.1 SV order

**Pattern:** Mismatches are resolved to masculine.

1st conjunct \ 2nd conjunct	fem	masc
fem	fem	masc
masc	masc	masc

**Examples:**

- (3) a. almarʔatu ʔaw arrajulu yarkud<sup>f</sup>a:ni.  
 woman.SG or man.SG run.3PL  
 ‘The woman or the man run.’  
 b. arrajulu ʔaw almarʔatu yarkud<sup>f</sup>a:ni.  
 man.SG or woman.SG run.3PL  
 ‘The man or the woman run.’

### 2.2.2 VS order

**Pattern:** There is closest conjunct agreement.

1st conjunct \ 2nd conjunct	fem	masc
fem	fem	fem
masc	masc	masc

**Examples:**

- (4) a. tarkud<sup>f</sup>u almarʔatu ʔaw arrajulu.  
 run.3SG.fem woman.SG or man.SG  
 ‘The woman or the man run.’  
 b. yarku<sup>f</sup>u arrajulu ʔaw almarʔatu.  
 run.3SG man.SG or woman.SG  
 ‘The man or the woman run.’

## 3 Patterns for number

### 3.1 Coordination with “and”

#### 3.1.1 SV order

**Pattern:** With two singular conjuncts, the verb is marked as dual. If one of the conjuncts is plural, number is resolved to plural.

1st conjunct \ 2nd conjunct	sg	du	pl
sg	du		pl
du			
pl	pl		pl

### Examples:

- (5) alwaladu w-arrajulu yarkud<sup>ʕ</sup>a:ni  
boy.SG and-man.SG run.3PL  
'The boy and the man run.'
- (6) a. alwaladu w-arrija:lu yarkud<sup>ʕ</sup>u:na.  
boy.SG and-man.PL run.3PL  
'The boy and the men run.'
- b. alʔawla:du w-arrajulu yarkud<sup>ʕ</sup>u:na.  
boy.PL and-man.SG run.3PL  
'The boys and the man run.'

### 3.1.2 VS order

**Pattern:** The verb shows default singular agreement in VS order.

1st conjunct \ 2nd conjunct	sg	du	pl
sg	sg		sg
du			
pl	sg		sg

### Examples:

- (7) yarkud<sup>ʕ</sup>u alwaladu w-arrajulu.  
run.3SG boy.SG and-man.SG  
'The boy and the man run.'
- (8) a. yarkud<sup>ʕ</sup>u alʔawla:du w-arrajulu.  
run.3SG boy.PL and-man.SG  
'The boys and the man run.'
- b. yarkud<sup>ʕ</sup>u alwaladu w-arrija:lu.  
run.3SG boy.SG and-man.PL  
'The boy and the men run.'
- (9) yarkud<sup>ʕ</sup>u alʔawla:du w-arrija:lu.  
run.3SG boy.PL and-man.PL  
'The boys and the men run.'

## 3.2 Coordination with “or”

### 3.2.1 SV order

**Pattern:** With two singular conjuncts, the verb is marked as dual. If one of the conjuncts is plural, number is resolved to plural.

1st conjunct \ 2nd conjunct	sg	du	pl
sg	du		pl
du			
pl	pl		pl

### Examples:

- (10) alwaladu ?aw arrajulu yarkud<sup>ʕ</sup>a:ni.  
boy.SG or man.SG run.3PL  
'The boy or the man run.'
- (11) a. al?wla:du ?aw arrajulu yarkud<sup>ʕ</sup>u:na.  
boy.PL or man.SG run.3PL  
'The boys or the man run.'
- b. alwaladu ?aw arrija:lu yarkud<sup>ʕ</sup>u:na.  
boy.SG or man.PL run.3PL  
'The boy or the men run.'
- (12) al?wla:du ?aw arrija:lu yarkud<sup>ʕ</sup>u:na.  
boy.PL or man.PL run.3PL  
'The boys or the men run.'

### 3.2.2 VS order

**Pattern:** The verb shows default singular agreement in VS order.

1st conjunct \ 2nd conjunct	sg	du	pl
sg	sg		sg
du			
pl	sg		sg

**Examples:**

- (13) yarkud<sup>ʕ</sup>u alwaladu ?aw arrajulu.  
run.3SG boy.SG or man.SG  
'The boy or the man run.'
- (14) a. yarkud<sup>ʕ</sup>u al?wla:du ?aw arrajulu.  
run.3SG boy.PL or man.SG  
'The boys or the man run.'
- b. yarkud<sup>ʕ</sup>u alwaladu ?aw arrija:lu.  
run.3SG boy.SG or man.PL  
'The boy or the men run.'
- (15) yarkud<sup>ʕ</sup>u al?wla:du ?aw arrija:lu.  
run.3SG boy.PL or man.PL  
'The boys or the men run.'

## 4 Patterns for person

### 4.1 Coordination with “and”

#### 4.1.1 SV order

**Pattern:** Mismatching person seems to be resolved according to the hierarchy 1 > 2 > 3.  
(Number is resolved to plural.)

1st conjunct \ 2nd conjunct	1	2	3
1		1pl	
2	1pl		
3			

#### Examples:

(16)   ʔanta wa-ʔana: narkud<sup>ʃ</sup>u.  
 You and-I run.1PL  
 ‘You and I run.’

(17)   ʔana: wa-ʔanta narkud<sup>ʃ</sup>u.  
 I and-you run.1PL  
 ‘I and you run.’

#### 4.1.2 VS order

#### Examples:

(18)   ʔarkud<sup>ʃ</sup>u ʔana: wa-ʔija:k.  
 run.1SG I and-you  
 ‘I and you run.’

### 4.2 Coordination with “or”

#### 4.2.1 SV order

**Pattern:** Mismatching person is resolved following the hierarchy 1 > 2 > 3. (Number is resolved to plural.)

1st conjunct \ 2nd conjunct	1	2	3
1		1pl	
2	1pl		
3			

#### Examples:

(19)   ʔanta ʔaw ʔana: narkud<sup>ʃ</sup>u.  
 You or I run.1PL  
 ‘You or I run.’

(20)   ʔana: ʔaw ʔanta narkud<sup>ʃ</sup>u.  
 I or you run.1PL  
 ‘I or you run.’